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State Agricultural Development Board Approves \$33,950 for Monroe County High School Agriculture Department Greenhouse

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, chaired by Governor Paul Patton, voted today to approve a \$33,950 to complete a grant request submitted by the Monroe County High School Agriculture Department to establish a greenhouse for instruction in horticulture and floriculture. The application was reviewed by the Monroe County Agricultural Development Council and forwarded to the state board as a high priority item. Funds come from \$511,992 set aside for Monroe County in the Agricultural Development Fund established with half of Kentucky's tobacco settlement proceeds.

Governor Patton praised the Board's action to boost the efforts of Monroe County young people interested in agriculture. The Board's action came after approval last month of \$35,000 for the \$68,950 project.

"This action means that the young people of Monroe County will have expanded opportunities to learn about career options in agriculture other than tobacco. This is an investment in the future of Kentucky agriculture, the future of our rural communities, and in diversification efforts in one of our state's most progressive agricultural counties," said Governor Paul Patton.

The award was made as one of 23 projects approved by the Board during its meeting today. The Board approved a total of \$593,423 in state level projects, and \$1,265,877 in a variety of county-level programs, including the Monroe County High School Agriculture Department greenhouse.

"We are very excited! We've been trying to find funding for the construction of this greenhouse for four to five years and now, and because of the Ag Development Board's decision, it will become a reality," said Monroe County High School Agriculture Teacher Mitchell Cunningham.